

Deal (GA)	Hinchey	Rangel
Doggett	Janklow	Regula
Emerson	Johnson (CT)	Rush
Engel	Johnson, E. B.	Scott (GA)
Filner	Lantos	Tierney
Fletcher	Larson (CT)	Waters
Galleghy	Lynch	Waxman
Gephardt	Markey	Wexler
Goodlatte	Meehan	Young (AK)
Hastings (FL)	Miller, George	
Herger	Nadler	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1230

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 673, due to urgent constituent support commitments in my congressional district, I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I was unavoidably detained on Monday, December 8, 2003, during rollcall vote Nos. 672 and 673 on H. Res. 493, a resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 672 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 673.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained and missed two recorded votes on the House floor.

I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD that had I not been unavoidably detained earlier this morning, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 672 (Previous Question) and "no" on rollcall vote No. 673 (Passage of Martial Law Rule).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOE SKEEN

(Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform my colleagues and Members of this House that last evening Congressman Joe Skeen of New Mexico passed away from complications associated with Parkinson's disease. His funeral will be held on Thursday, December 12, at 2 p.m. in Roswell, New Mexico. I know

that many Members of this House were close personal friends of Joe, enjoyed his company and his sense of humor and his deep commitment to this country. After the final business of today, there will be a 1-hour special order on the House floor to allow Members to honor their friend.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for rising and for yielding as well. I had not heard of Joe's passing.

When I came to the Congress of the United States in 1981, my office was two doors from Joe Skeen's. As we all do, we had the opportunity to walk down the fifth floor corridor of the Longworth building to vote and we talk and get to know one another. And Suzanne, his chief of staff, and I became good friends, and Joe became an extraordinarily good friend. Joe chaired a subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Skeen was one of those Members who added greatly to the comity of this body. He had deep convictions, but he also had a deep respect for those with whom he served. Joe Skeen will be missed by New Mexico, by his family, but he will also be missed by this House and by the American people. At a time when the relations between the parties is not what really it ought to be in this House, and perhaps in this country, Joe Skeen was one of those who demonstrated that differences on policy did not need to be accompanied by enmity between the Members of this House. He will be sorely missed. And I thank the gentlewoman for giving me this opportunity to say how loved Joe Skeen was by all who knew him.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a comment. I served with Joe Skeen on the Interior Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. He was our chairman, did an outstanding job. We worked together on a very bipartisan basis. And even though he was struggling somewhat, he was there every day, worked hard, did a great job on the Interior bill. Every member of the committee on both sides of the aisle, all the staff, loved Joe Skeen because he was such a decent warm human being, and he will be missed. But his work will be remembered, and he did a lot of great things for our country as chairman of the Interior Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. We will miss Joe Skeen.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

MR. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the tenor here of the Mem-

bers, I think, is very appropriate to the man that Joe Skeen was. And I had the opportunity, as the gentlewoman knows, to serve with him here for the 5 years that he was here, and I always felt that he was a good friend. He was very serious about New Mexico. And whenever I had any question about New Mexico issues or any other issues, for that matter, he was somebody that I could go to the other side of the aisle and sit down with and talk with and visit with. So it is with great sadness, I think, that all New Mexicans feel his passing away. And I think all Members of Congress that have served here with him know that he was of the old school. He cared very much about bipartisanship. He cared about this institution. He was somebody that, I think many years hence, we will remember him and regret his passing.

So I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and look forward to participating with her later in the day in the special order.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Mexico for his comments. Again, there will be an opportunity for Members to remember Joe and his contributions to this House and to this Nation later on this afternoon.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 473

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2673) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself